Divisional Forest Officer has omitted to notice the lightness of pound fees. To this, however, he has called attention in a separate report, and proposals to raise the fines in respect of cattle trespassing in the forests of the villages that have been most to blame, have already been submitted to Government."

123. The Collector and District Magistrate of Sátára has stated: "I have no valid reasons for thinking that the forest subordinates impound cattle harshly and unnecessarily. I have found the Range Forest Officers reasonable and intelligent men; when doing jamábandi, I have made it a rule to have the Range Forest Officer of the táluká in question seated by me, and I ask the officers of each village if they have any complaint to make in forest matters, so also I ask the Ranger if he has any complaint against the village, and in this way differences are amicably settled."

3.—CIVIL SUITS.

124. No civil suit was instituted either by or against Government in any of the divisions of the Northern Circle, during the year. The two suits referred to in paragraphs 131 and 132 of last year's report, in the North Thána division, were still under adjudication and remained undecided up to the close of the year.

125. In the Poona division a sum of Rs. 293-1-0 has been recovered from Dipchand Balkisan, out of the amount of Rs. 320-5-5, referred to in paragraph 130 of last year's report.

4.—FOREST FIRES.

126. The following statement exhibits the results of fire conservancy in the several divisions of the Northern Circle, during the year, as compared with those of the year preceding:—

No.	Division.	Forest Area placed under protection against fire.		Acreage burned.		Percentage burned.		Expenditure incurred.		Remarks.
		1890-91.	1891-92.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1890-91.	1891-92.	
								Rs.	Rs.	
1	North Thána ..	449,465	436,398	53,559	8,613	11·9	1·9	751	2,364	The figures entered in column "Forest area placed under protection against fire" include the areas provisionally notified under Sections 4 and 28 of the Forest Act which are in charge of the Forest Department, but which are not included in Form No. 49.
2	South Thána ..	425,097	377,780	85,300	10,420	20·0	2·7	589	701	
3	East Khándesh ..	518,169	510,796	19,345	33,766	3·7	6·6	95	176	
4	West Khándesh ..	1,088,621	1,088,625	606,972	639,312	55·7	58·7	173	226	
5	Násik ..	763,333	818,499	10,187	11,321	1·3	1·3	102	128	
6	Ahmednagar ..	541,003	541,524	592	374	0·10	0·06	..	.	
7	Poona	476,090	476,645	2,154	3,805	0·45	0·79	63	11	
8	Sátára	440,867	438,684	4,062	993	0·92	0·22	..	..	
9	Sholápur	177,693	177,716	487	222	0·27	0·12	..	.	
10	Surat..	477,930	477,913	433,616	432,583	90·7	90·5	12	43	
11	Panch Mahális ..	212,240	200,109	9,014	10,133	4·2	5·06	1	2	
	Total ..	5,571,508	5,544,689	1,225,268	1,151,542	21·9	20·7	1,786	3,651	

127. In the two forest divisions of Thána greater attention was paid to fire conservancy; and owing to the energetic co-operation of the Collector, the mámlatdárs, police and other district officers, have all been enrolled in the cause of the suppression of forest fires. The round guards were directed to make an immediate report by means of a post-card to the Collector, direct, on the occurrence of fire within the forests of their rounds, so that the revenue and police officers might be at once warned to assist inquiry and make investigation into the origin of a fire, with a view to the detection and punishment of the offender. In the case of fires caused wilfully the main object is shikár, fire being used to remove the undergrowth and leaves, and thus facilitate the pursuit and slaughter of game. The preparation of ash manure in fields, adjoining forest boundaries, has led to the burning of much forest lands in different directions. The damage done by fire in a closed coupe is incalculable, and 15 of the South Thána division fires burnt "closed forest," traversing 755 acres out of a total of 11,112 acres: in one case the fire was caused by smoking rats out of holes, and two of the offenders were caught and punished with rigorous imprisonment for 20 days.

128. In the East Khándesh division fire conservancy has received specially careful attention, and had it not been for a fire, which occurred in the Sátpuda forests in the Yával range, about a fortnight before the close of the dry season,